

United States Frigate Constellation

Norfolk Harbour February 10. 1813

Sir

Admiral Sir John B. Warren has placed the waters of the Chesapeake under strict blockade. There remains at anchor in the Bay between the Horse Sho and Light-house four Frigates, one twenty gun Ship a Brig and Schooner. They have also cruising outside, two Seventy four gun Ships and a Frigate. They have taken several vessels bound out and in, and turned back several with provisions which I presume were bound to Lisbon and Cadiz.

I feel extremely at a loss what steps to pursue; it is impossible to raise so superior a force with this Ship as they are situated.

Of the Gun Boats on this Station several have no men and no volunteers are to be got, and those that have men have only ten or fifteen on board. This Ship is also very weakly manned, there being not more than enough to man the carriage guns with some of the Marines. Would it not be well to send down all the men recruited for the Adams Frigate to strengthen this place as much as possible; under cover of a blockade they may have some ulterior views against it and the Shipping in its waters. At present they are now very much exposed to an attack by water there being sufficient depth to admit their heaviest Ships to come up, and they have Pilots on board.